

dation of the Franklin Institute, was guest lecturer. He spoke on "Cosmic Rays Simplified" before an audience of approximately four hundred and fifty people. Following the lecture he gave a cello recital of six numbers accompanied by Dr. Barrows Dunham, assistant professor of English at Franklin and Marshall College. Before the lecture a dinner was given in honor of Dr. Swann, at which fourteen members especially interested in the success of the branch were present.

The following officers were elected: *Chairman*, Jaques Cattell; *Vice-chairman*, Dr. Clarence C. Vogt; *Treasurer*, Professor H. M. Fry; *Secretary*, Dr. Frances A. Coventry. Dr. Noel P. Laird was made chairman of the publicity committee. This committee is composed of representatives from the Hamilton Watch Company, the Lancaster City Schools, the Lancaster County Schools, the Millersville State Teachers College, the Armstrong Cork Company, the Lancaster Medical Societies, the Lancaster College Club, the Harris Dental Society, the Muhlenberg Botanical Society and other organizations.

One hundred and two members had joined the branch at the time of the meeting. Since then the membership has increased to almost four hundred. Dues have been set at \$1 per year, and it is planned to hold meetings monthly from September to June.

The second meeting was scheduled for March 20 with William McAndrew, formerly superintendent of schools in Chicago, as the lecturer. The third meeting is planned for the second week in April, when the speakers will be M. and Mme. Jean Piccard.

F. A. COVENTRY,
Secretary

THE ENGINEERING INDEX

DR. FRANK B. JEWETT, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories and vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, has accepted the position of national chairman of a campaign to raise a working capital fund of \$161,000 for "Engineering Index, Inc." Announcement of Dr. Jewett's acceptance was made by Collins P. Bliss, president of the index and dean of the School of Engineering of New York University, who has headed a movement to save the fifty-year-old index and annotating service of the engineering profession since it was discontinued as an activity of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers a year ago. In accepting the chairmanship of the Engineering Index National Committee, Dr. Jewett said:

Only my deep concern for the preservation of this essential service could induce me to accept this responsibility.

The keeping of the records of science is one of the most important and valuable activities. To-day the index is the only agency which makes available to the engineer and research worker an exhaustive and continuing record of findings and developments in the technical field.

In view of the enormous, unwieldy mass of current engineering literature, the absence of such a service would have serious and far-reaching consequences. Certainly if duplication of effort and the resulting economic loss is to be minimized, it is essential for the research worker at all times to be in a position to profit by what others have done and are doing.

During the past year the continuance of *Engineering Index* as a non-profit corporation has been the concern of a small group of educators and engineers. The majority utilizing its service have taken such continuance for granted. It is my belief that if representative members of the profession and of industry are apprised of the actual situation, they will cooperate in providing funds needed to insure its permanence and make possible a program to widen its use.

I join with Dean Bliss and the others on the National Committee, in the belief that preservation of *Engineering Index* is one of the most important jobs confronting the profession to-day. Soundly established, with adequate facilities for the exhaustive and systematic annotating and reporting of the findings in both pure and applied science, it will be insurance of continued and orderly progress, and as such, a national asset. Its support by industry is a matter of enlightened self-interest.

The National Committee is not as yet completely enrolled. It, however, already includes the names of a large number of those prominent in engineering and in industry.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. JOHN JAMES RICKARD MACLEOD, professor of physiology in the University of Aberdeen, died on March 16, at the age of fifty-eight years. Dr. Macleod, who received the Nobel prize with Sir Frederick Banting for their discovery of insulin, was professor of physiology at Western Reserve University from 1903 to 1918 and for the next ten years at Toronto.

DR. JOHN RUHRÄH, professor of the diseases of children at the University of Maryland, died on March 10 at the age of fifty-eight years.

DR. DANIEL COLQUHOUN, emeritus professor of medicine in the University of Otago, New Zealand, died on February 17.

Nature records the death of Professor Emanuele Paternò, formerly professor of general chemistry at the University of Rome, and of Dr. Axel Wallén, director of the State Meteorological Hydrographic Institute of Sweden.